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**ICCMS™**  
CARIES MANAGEMENT  
International Caries Classification and Management System

# ICCMS™ Guide for Practitioners and Educators

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**December 2014**

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**ICDAS**  
FOUNDATION  
International Caries Detection and Assessment System

**GCCM**

Global Collaboratory for  
Caries Management



Directed by ICDAS and its ICCMS™

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\*\*For a list of contributors from the ICCMS™ Implementation Workshop and development meetings since, please see Appendix A2.

Amid Ismail and Nigel Pitts are the co-Directors of ICDAS/ICCMS™ and are assisted by Stefania Martignon, the ICCMS™ Coordinator. Modifications, questions, and suggestions relating to the ICCMS™ Consensus Core resource document and this ICCMS™ Guide for Practitioners and Educators should be directed to Stefania Martignon ([stefania.martignon@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:stefania.martignon@kcl.ac.uk)) who also works with the current ICDAS coordinator Gail Douglas ([g.v.a.douglas@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:g.v.a.douglas@leeds.ac.uk)) as well as the ICDAS Coordinating Committee and the Global Collaboratory for Caries Management (GCCM), formed at King's College London under the supervision of Professor Nigel Pitts, with the aim of initiating comparative studies of the proposed systems and evaluate the process and outcomes of its implementation. Further details can be found in the webpages [www.icdas.org](http://www.icdas.org) and [www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/kpi/projects/healthpolicy/global-caries-management.aspx](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/kpi/projects/healthpolicy/global-caries-management.aspx).

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**Note:** ICCMS™ is trademarked by the ICDAS Foundation in order that the International Caries Classification and Management System can remain open and available to all.

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## Overview

The aim of this Guide is to describe the structure and facilitate the implementation of the International Caries Classification and Management System (ICCMS™), which the authors propose to be used in the daily handling of our patients for caries prevention and management and also in the teaching undertaken at dental schools around the world.

**The ICCMS™ is a health outcomes focused system that aims to maintain health and preserve tooth structure. Staging of the caries process and activity assessment is followed by risk-adjusted preventive care, control of initial non-cavitated lesions, and conservative restorative treatment of deep dentinal and cavitated caries lesions.**

There are four elements in the ICCMS™, the two key aspects are:

- **Classification - *Caries Staging & Activity Assessment*:** this comprises (i) staging of caries lesion severity ('initial'/'moderate'/'extensive') and (ii) caries activity assessment (likelihood of progression or arrest/reversal of lesions: 'active'/'inactive'). [Note that during the intraoral assessment phase information is also collected on oral risk factors; e.g. oral hygiene, dry mouth]
- **Management - *Personalised Caries Prevention, Control & Tooth Preserving Operative Care*:** The dental team, together with the patient, devise a Personalised Caries Care Plan to manage the caries risk status of the patient as well as managing caries lesions appropriately. (i) Management of the risk status is based on both home care advice, as well as clinical activities; those with low risk getting general information on how to maintain teeth as sound, those with moderate and high risk with increasing focus on behaviour changes and short periods between recalls to the clinic. (ii) The management of the lesions is related to the diagnosis of the individual lesions: 'initial' active lesions in general are managed with non-operative care (NOC) whilst moderate/extensive lesions are in general managed operatively with tooth preserving operative care (TPOC).

In order to devise an optimal Personalised Caries Management Plan, two other elements are also needed (please note that the chronological sequence and the method of integration of patient and clinical information may vary according to local preferences):

- **History - *Patient-level Caries Risk Assessment*:** collation of risk information at the patient level (to be integrated with clinical and tooth level information).
- **Decision Making - *Synthesis and Diagnoses*:** (i) classification of individual lesions combining information about their stage and activity (e.g. 'initial' active lesion), and (ii) an overall caries risk likelihood status combining information about presence/absence of active lesion/s and patient's risk ('low', 'moderate' or 'high' risk of getting future caries and/or of lesion progression).

The risk-based recall interval, including monitoring and review, then allows this caries management pathway to become a cycle, facilitating the achievement of optimal long-term health outcomes.

- **Outcomes** - are considered across: health maintenance, disease control, patient-centred quality metrics, as well as the wider impacts of using the ICCMS™ System.

The authors hope that this Guide will be useful in bringing the International Caries Classification and Management System - ICCMS™- to the attention of many more clinicians and educators around the world. We also hope that it will provide an indication of one way to operationalise the System. The characteristics of ICCMS™ are the delivery of effective, risk based caries care that prevents new lesions, controls initial caries non-operatively and preserves tooth tissue at all times.

The authors gratefully acknowledge the tremendous contributions of all the many parties who have contributed to both the ICDAS Foundation and to the development of ICCMS™.

## Introduction

The International Caries Classification and Management System - ICCMS™ - deliberately incorporates a range of options designed to accommodate the needs of different users across the ICDAS (International Caries Detection and Assessment System) domains of clinical practice, dental education, research and public health (see Figure 1). The ICCMS™ system seeks to provide a standardised method for comprehensive caries classification and management, but recognises fully that there are different ways for implementing such systems locally. ICCMS™ builds on the evidence-based ICDAS system for the staging of caries. It also maintains the flexible approach of the ICDAS “wardrobe” which provides several approved options for categorising the disease according to local and/or specific needs, preferences and circumstances.

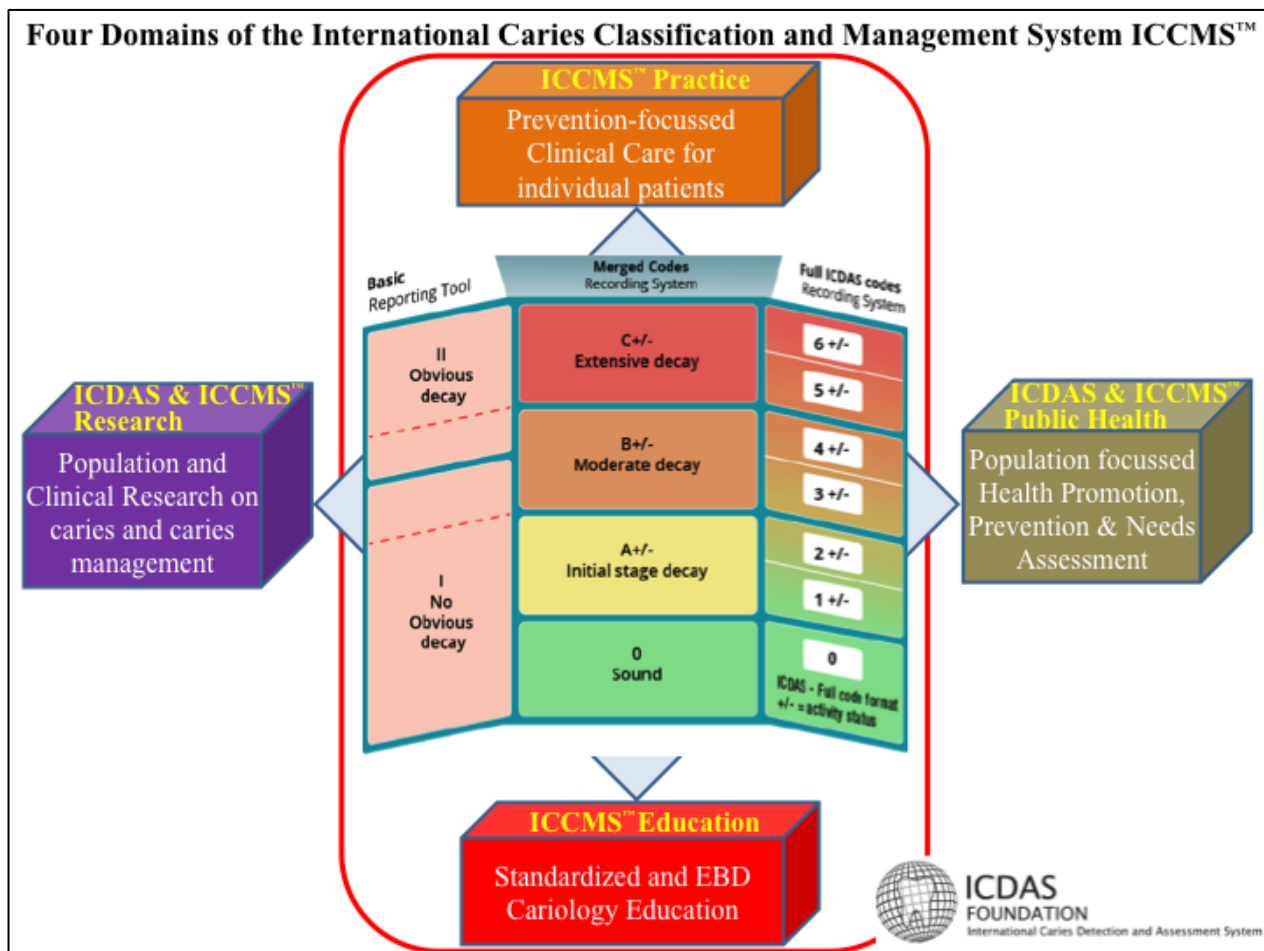
It must be appreciated that this Guide relates only to the use of the System in the domains of **Practice** and **Education**; there are a range of considerations and applications of ICDAS/ICCMS™ in Research and in Public Health that are important, but are beyond the scope of this Guide (see Figure 1).

The system outlined in this document is based on best evidence and consensus. The methodology used was wherever possible to use “SIGN” grading of the evidence with rapid reviews and then to use expert consensus to get recommendations based on the best available evidence. We hope that the expanding Global Collaboratory for Caries Management (GCCM) will provide a network to allow implementation of the ICCMS™ in ways that work locally. We also invite wider participation in the GCCM in order to secure continuous quality improvement as we implement, refine and localise this Guide.

For a long time, the field of caries detection, risk assessment, diagnosis, and management has been dominated by dogma and lack of translation of the best evidence into clinical practice<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, over the last decade an international group of cariolologists, epidemiologists and clinicians has worked to develop protocols for promoting appropriate management of caries based upon the best biological and clinical evidence.

The International Caries Classification and Management System - ICCMS™ - is linked to ICDAS. While ICDAS provides flexible and increasingly internationally adopted methods for classifying stages of the caries process and the activity status of lesions, ICCMS™ provides options to enable dentists and the dental team to integrate and synthesise tooth and patient information, including caries risk status, in order to plan, manage and review caries in clinical practice.

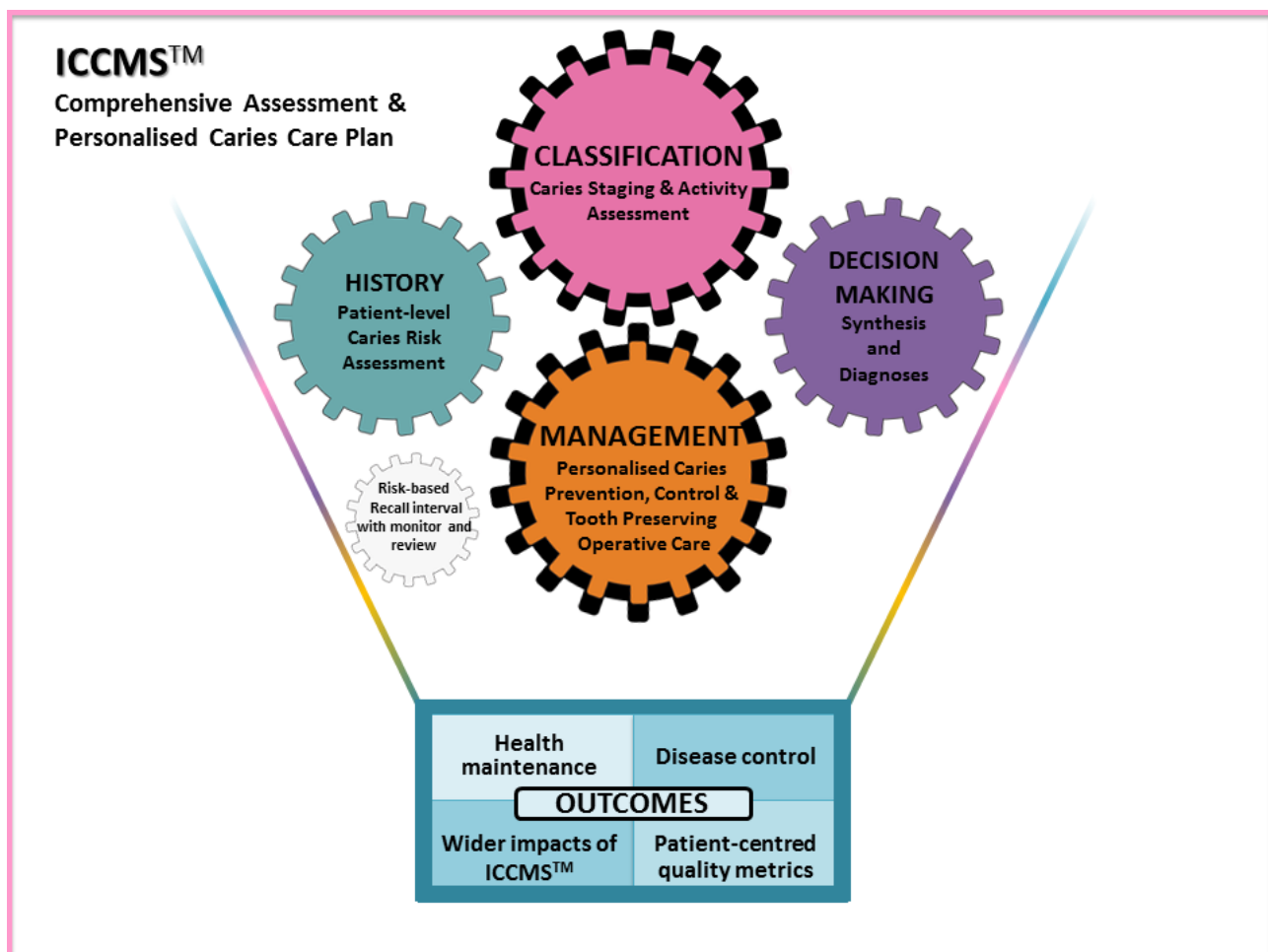
This document provides an international guide to the ICCMS™ System. The authors are aware of the need to focus on the key concepts and the cycle of caries management, but also to not be too prescriptive. We invite and anticipate local adaptation with flexibility which flows from the ICDAS “wardrobe” concept. The essential steps in delivering ICCMS™ are the four elements (specifically including the staging of lesions and assessment of caries activity) used to plan and deliver effective, risk based caries care that prevents new lesions, controls initial caries non-operatively and preserves tooth tissue at all times. Please note that a range of preferred risk assessment tools can be used with ICCMS™.



**Figure 1. Identification of the ICCMS™ Practice and Education Domains relating to this manual (ICCMS™ Research and public health domains are beyond the scope of this manual).**

The International Caries Classification and Management System - ICCMS™ is a health outcomes focused system that aims to maintain health and preserve tooth structure. Staging of the caries process and activity assessment is followed by risk-adjusted preventive care, control of initial non-cavitated lesions, and conservative restorative treatment of deep dentinal and cavitated caries lesions.





**Figure 2. Overview of ICCMS™ Elements and Outcomes.**

Figure 2 provides an overview of how ICCMS™ uses a simple form of the ICDAS Caries **Classification** model to stage caries severity and assess lesion activity in order to derive an appropriate, personalised, preventively biased, risk-adjusted, tooth preserving **Management** Plan. The ICCMS™ System is delivered as a cycle, which includes patient level Caries Risk Assessment along with Decision Making, which synthesises both clinical and patient level information; it is then repeated according to risk-based recall intervals. The outcomes of using this systematic approach are assessed in terms of health maintenance, disease control, patient centred quality metrics as well as wider impacts away from individual patient care.

The ICCMS™ development group have learned useful insights into routine clinical decision making and how to minimise unconscious diagnostic and treatment planning errors from Dr. Pat Croskerry (Division of Medical Education, Dalhousie University, Canada). His important work in this field began with researching decision making systems in emergency medicine, however his theories and teachings on heuristics are now being applied in many medical disciplines including caries diagnosis and management.

Heuristics are mental shortcuts that allow people to solve problems and make judgments efficiently in everyday life. They dominate our day-to-day clinical reasoning and are practical and effective, but can sometimes lead to cognitive errors in complex environments. (<http://www.improvediagnosis.org/?CognitiveError>). Most of the time clinicians (be they dentists, physicians or surgeons) use the so-called 'System 1' decision-

making tactic. System 1 is fast, autonomous, reflexive and inexpensive, but vulnerable to error. The experienced clinician devises set scripts and can move rapidly through routine repetitive tasks and arrive at good and appropriate decisions. However, he/she will recognise an atypical pattern when something doesn't quite fit and will then slow down and use 'System 2'. This is slow, deliberate, methodical but costly; it makes fewer errors and can allow the clinician to come up with a suitable care plan in complex or unusual cases.

In this Guide we have responded to this philosophy - Overview figures (with pink borders) show the key aspects of what should be done to deliver the ICCMS™ in 'System 1' type situations, which is typical of an experienced dentist working in a busy dental office or clinic. These figures communicate the key elements of ICCMS™. They can be viewed as a form of check-list. Detailed figures (with blue borders) are also provided and these show what is needed for situations where 'System 2' may be utilized and the clinician wants to slow down and move step by step through a more detailed pathway. The information summarized in the more detailed pathway diagrams is also useful for educators and for specifying outcomes. We hope that readers will use their judgement to choose which would be the appropriate decision making 'System' to use in different situations.

This document, named ICCMS™ Guide for Practitioners and Educators, focuses on the theoretical background that supports and facilitates the implementation of ICCMS™ and its practical applications in clinical practice and education. ICCMS™ has been developed by the ICDAS Foundation<sup>2</sup>, with the help of a number of additional experts. It includes a comprehensive set of clinical protocols (drawn up based on the best available evidence) to support history taking, clinical examination, risk assessment and personalised care planning in order to enable improved long-term caries outcomes<sup>3</sup>.

## **1. History and Development of ICCMS™**

The start point for the development of this system came in 2002, when groups of interested individuals from a number of international academic centres harmonised global evidence around caries detection and assessment to create the International Caries Detection and Assessment System (ICDAS). They have since maintained and developed the system with an increasing number of collaborators from around the world. The ICDAS Foundation was formed linking core centres in Dundee, Michigan, Indiana and Copenhagen. The current ICDAS foundation links many of the same core academic staff currently at the Universities of Kings College London, Temple, Indiana, Copenhagen, Dundee, Leeds, Michigan, Sheffield and many other academics and universities making up the ICDAS coordinating committee<sup>2</sup>. The FDI World Dental Federation and researchers from the US National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) have also contributed over the years. In recent years, the Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future (ACFF) and its chapters have also helped to promote ICDAS and ICCMS™.

The recognition of the then urgent need for a more standardised and robust method of classifying caries (with a focus on more than just the dentinal or cavitation stages of caries

as a threshold for making the decision to treat) came from an International Consensus Workshop on Caries Clinical Trials<sup>4-6</sup>.

The ICDAS Group recognised caries as an ever-changing challenge for both clinicians and epidemiologists/researchers. The group elected to merge a range of existing caries classification systems, which had been tested and reviewed by some of its members<sup>5,6</sup>. These systems include a number of key papers linking clinical visual assessment of lesion extent and activity to histological validation<sup>7,8</sup>, in order to produce an integrated caries classification system<sup>9</sup>. This system and the International Caries Classification and Management System (ICCMS™), which has been subsequently built upon it, has been the subject of a large number of peer reviewed papers from around the world<sup>2</sup>.

The development of the ICCMS™ system came through a series of international Workshops and symposia. It has been based on a contemporary understanding of the evidence on and around cariology<sup>10</sup>, international agreements on current caries terminology<sup>11</sup> and how best to advance tooth preserving caries management pathways<sup>12</sup>.

The System has also been linked to the development and implementation of the European Core Curriculum on Cariology<sup>13,14</sup>. The FDI World Dental Federation serving as the principal representative body for more than one million dentists worldwide has published the FDI Caries Matrix which recognises ICDAS in two of its three “levels”<sup>15</sup>

(<http://www.fdiworldental.org/media/11674/2011.ga.resolution.on.principle.of.caries.classification.and.management.matrix.pdf>). Further, the FDI agreed (Hong Kong 2012) a policy statement on caries classification and management systems, which recommends that the elements of classification are kept distinct from those of management.

## 1.1 ICCMS™’s Goals for Caries Management

The mission of the International Caries Classification and Management System (ICCMS™) is to translate the current international understanding of the pathogenesis, prevention and control of dental caries in a holistic way through a comprehensive assessment and personalised caries care plan. This is in order to:

- prevent new lesions from appearing
- prevent existing lesions from advancing further
- preserve tooth structure with non-operative care at more initial stages and conservative operative care at more extensive caries stages

This should be done while managing risk factors through all of the elements in the caries management cycle and recalling patients at appropriate intervals, with periodic monitoring and reviewing.

The authors recommend that delivering these goals should be the driver for future remuneration systems and that outcome data should include these aspects.

A fundamental guidance statement relating to treatment decisions around operative intervention was agreed by all participants early in the development process and remains central to ICCMS™ - this is to:

**Preserve tooth structure and restore only when indicated.**

Preservation of tooth structure in its widest sense drives all decisions in the ICCMS™, as a patient-centered and biologically compatible system which is evidence-based (within the limitations of current knowledge), preventively oriented and safe for tooth structure. The system is focused on providing better care and better health at a lower cost and this philosophy has already shown some examples of important benefits in implementation<sup>16</sup>. Furthermore, the ICCMS™ is compatible with modern International Educational conventions (such as the ORCA/ADEE Cariology Curriculum in Europe and the new CODA standards in the USA) which facilitates its implementation through undergraduate and continuing education. This approach has recently been demonstrated in the consensus on cariology teaching for undergraduate students achieved in the Colombian dental schools<sup>17</sup> and progress being made across all dental schools in Malaysia.

## **1.2 Principles for Implementing ICCMS™**

There are a number of key principles which underlie both the design and implementation of ICCMS™:

1. ICCMS™ aims to preserve tooth structure as there is a professional responsibility to avoid preventable removal of sound tooth tissue.
2. ICCMS™ aims to prevent caries from developing, to control the disease process if and when it occurs and to reverse existing lesions in order to limit the long-term damage to healthy sound tooth structure.
3. ICCMS™ maintains and improves the dental health “trajectory” of patients on a continuum of caries and dental health scale, with strong emphasis on both primary and secondary prevention across the life-course.
4. ICCMS™ is based around pragmatic and updated risk analysis and clinical risk management for the individual patient.
5. ICCMS™ is based around staging of the caries process and lesion activity.
6. ICCMS™ aims to prevent the development of new caries lesions and prevent existing initial caries from progressing.
7. ICCMS™ care involves the use of caries lesion-defined preservative cavity preparations, cut only when operative intervention is clearly indicated and as a last resort. The guiding philosophy is to “preserve dental tissues first and restore only when indicated”.
8. ICCMS™ care involves the use of regular and patient specific recalls based on the current risk status.

### 1.3 ICCMS™ Caries Management Pathway

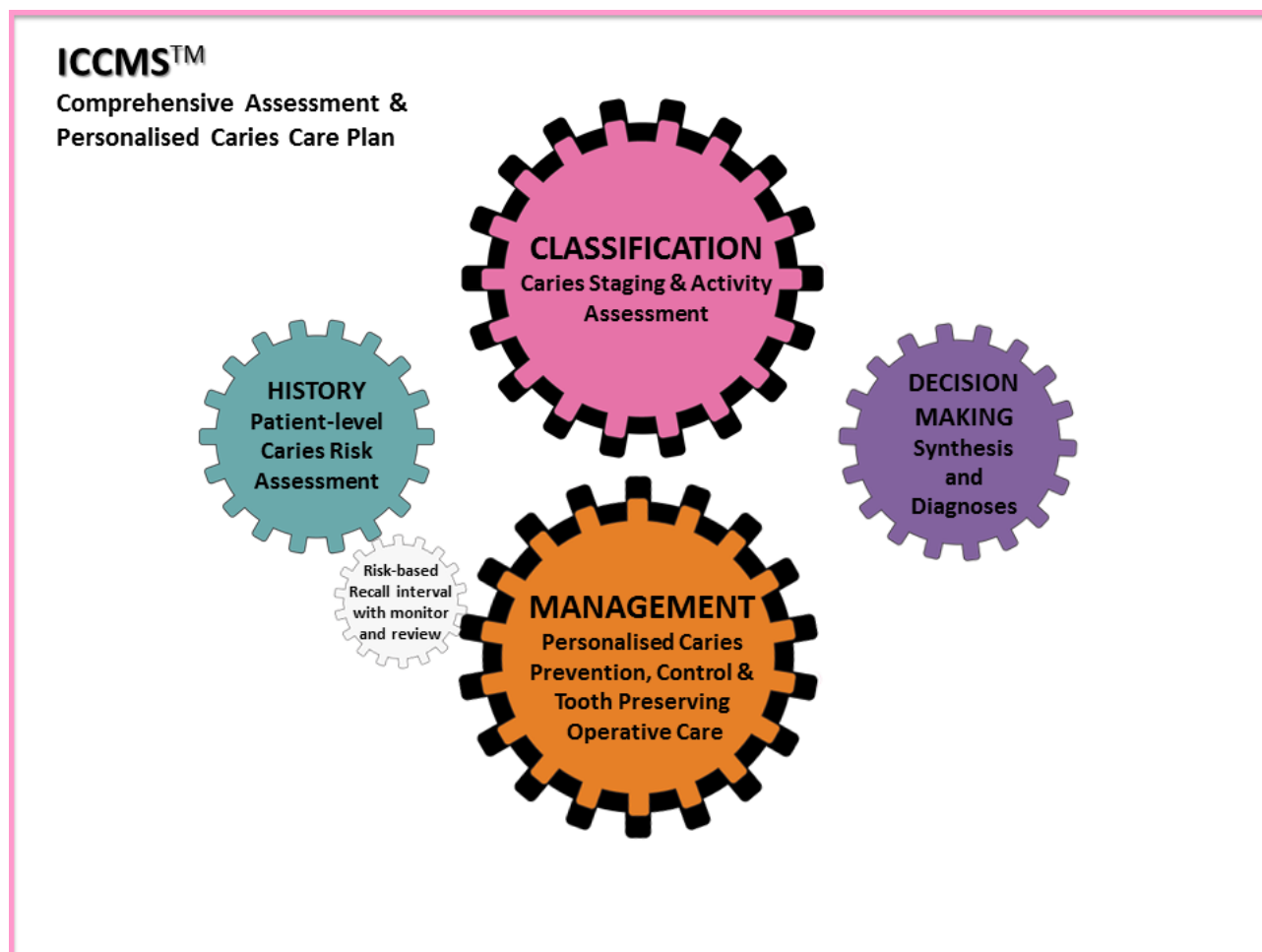


Figure 3. The Four ICCMS™ Elements, linked by risk-based recall.

The principles which the ICCMS™ is using are depicted in a cyclic format in Figure 3 and include four key elements. The **First Element** involves collecting a history from patients on their chief medical and dental complaints, past dental and medical history, history of present complaints, symptoms and preference for outcomes and then assesses the patient level risk factors. This step is integrated with the **Second Element**, the Caries Classification step, that starts with conducting an assessment of plaque on the teeth, followed by the clinical visual examination of the teeth, which focuses on determining the caries categories (sound, initial, moderate, extensive) on each tooth and tooth surface, assesses the activity state of each lesion, radiographic analysis (when available), and evaluates the caries experience (including number of restorations, state of previous restorative work, teeth extracted due to caries reasons, and dental sepsis), as well as other intraoral risk factors. The data collected from the interview and clinical examination are analysed and synthesised in the **Third Element**, decision making, to synthesise and diagnose the risk of getting new lesions in the future and to diagnose each lesion in terms of whether or not they are active and if they are of initial, moderate or extensive severity.

To help in these procedures the ICCMS™ works with a matrix for Caries Risk and Likelihood at the patient level and information about staged caries severity & activity at the lesion/surface level (see 2.3.2). An important factor in developing a Patient Care Plan is

the patient's preferences in terms of the outcomes of different caries management options. The **Fourth Element**, management, is to develop a Personalised Caries Care Plan to prevent sound tooth surfaces from developing caries, prevent initial lesions from progressing to cavitated stages and manage “deep dentinal” and cavitated lesions following with Tooth Preserving Operative Care (TPOC), within an individual risk management plan that includes the recall interval, the monitoring of the status of caries lesions and the reviewing of the patient behavioural change plan (Figure 4).

Please note that the Caries Management Pathway is cyclical as each element follows on in turn. Additional detail is given in Figure 4 in order to demonstrate a recommended method of implementation. The cycle restarts after each risk based recall interval.

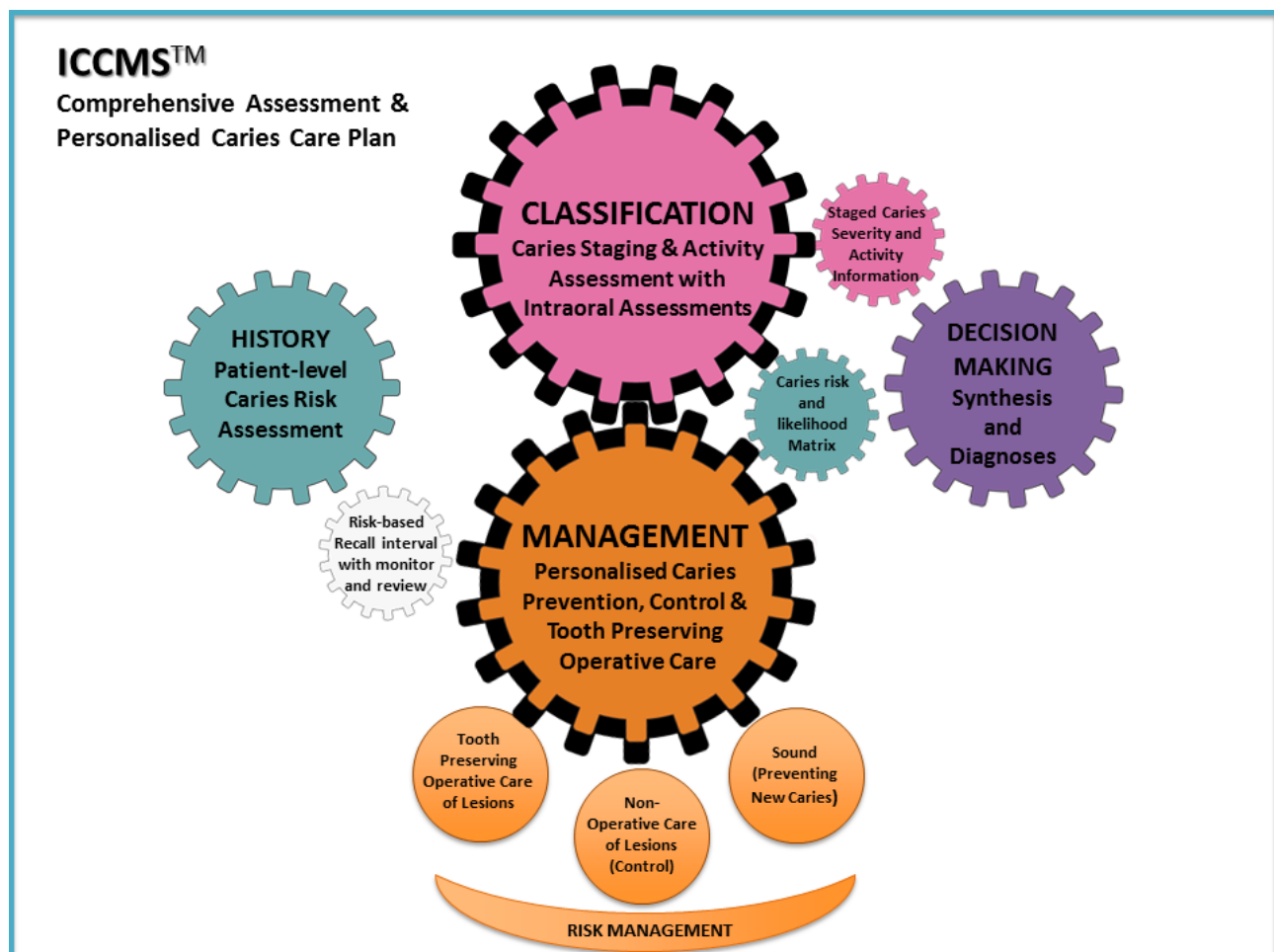


Figure 4. Detailed overview of ICCMS™ elements and their components.

## 2. ICCMS™ Elements and the supporting evidence

The four elements of ICCMS™ are described following the order in which the practitioner would typically proceed with the Caries Management Pathway. The classification and management Elements are distinctive and essential to ICCMS™.

## 2.1 Element 1- History- Patient-Level Caries Risk Assessment

The evidence base describes risk factors, risk indicators and risk predictors, and there are specific definitions to support each of these. However for the purpose of this document, we will call all of these “risk factors”. The authors are aware that, particularly for adults and older age groups, there are gaps in the evidence but hope that the Collaboratory will, in the future, provide better evidence in this area.

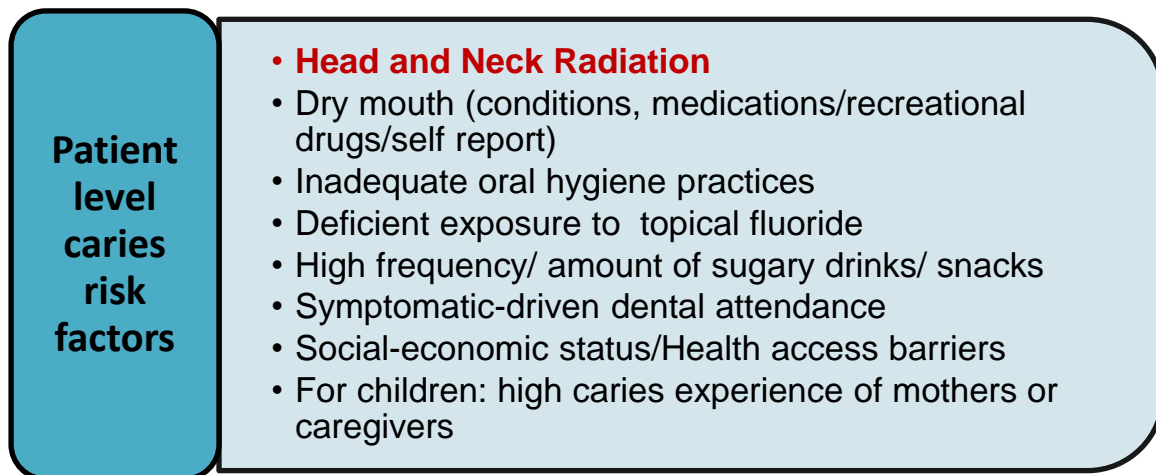
Prior to looking into the mouth, and having ensured that there are no urgent pain related issues, patient risk factors for caries are assessed (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Element 1- History- Patient-Level Caries Risk Assessment.

Listed below are the risk factors which may contribute towards an overall patient-level assessment of caries risk status. Further details and evidence can be found in Appendix C.





**Box 1. Patient level caries risk factors.**

**Note:** Risk factors in red denote a factor which will always classify an individual as high caries risk.

The patient-level risk factors are ascertained by taking a history to assess whether the patient has had radiation treatment, any use of medications, social background, dental attendance and to understand the patients diet.

## **2.2 Element 2- Classification: Caries Staging and Lesion Activity with Intraoral Caries Risk Assessments**

This section describes the clinical caries assessment which stages caries severity and assesses caries activity (Figure 6). This step also includes the assessment of the intraoral caries risk factors.

Plaque assessment is essential for intraoral caries risk determination, but plaque has to be removed for accurate caries staging and lesion activity assessment. The assessment of caries will always be conducted by means of visual examination and when possible, combined with radiographic examination. This will lead to information about the stage of caries (in terms of initial, moderate or extensive) and its activity status at the lesion level (in terms of arrested or active).

The intraoral risk factors, together with the patient level risk factors will contribute towards the caries risk and likelihood matrix- see 2.3.2.



## ICCMS™

Comprehensive Assessment &  
Personalised Caries Care Plan

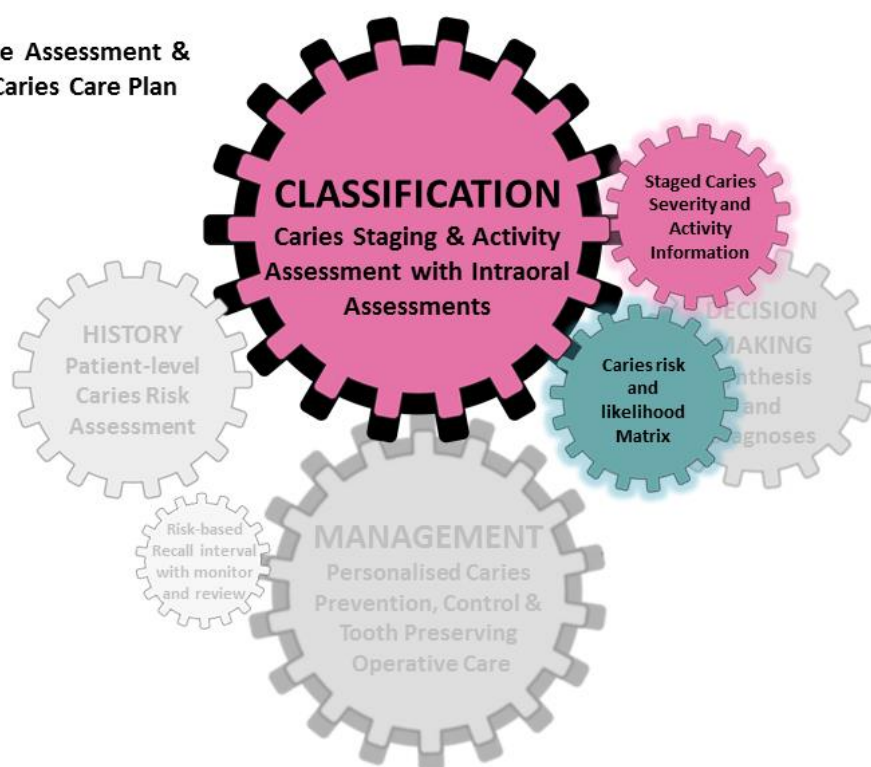


Figure 6. Element 2- Classification: Caries Staging and Lesion Activity Assessment with Intraoral Caries Risk Factors.

### 2.2.1 Assessment of Caries Risk Factors Intraorally

The ICCMS™ recommends assessing the following intraoral risk factors during the clinical examination of patients.

#### Intraoral level caries risk factors

- **Hypo-salivation/Gross indicators of dry mouth**
- **PUFA (Exposed Pulp, Ulceration, Fistula, Abscess) – Dental sepsis**
- Caries experience and active lesions
- Thick plaque: evidence of sticky biofilm in plaque stagnation areas
- Appliances, restorations and other causes of increased biofilm retention
- Exposed root surfaces

#### Box 2. Intraoral level caries risk factors.

Note 1: Risk factors in red denote a factor which will always classify an individual as high caries risk.

Note 2: For child patients, prolonged nursing or bottle feeding is considered an increased risk of caries, as are erupting permanent molar teeth.

Further detail and evidence can be found in Appendix C.

The risk factors mentioned above correspond to those with higher association with caries risk status, and are to be considered for risk assessment. The dentist/dental team's hunch is also considered to be important on the basis of several studies<sup>18-20</sup>.

As for how to calculate the caries risk status of the patient there are currently a range of diverse tests available, as well as computer-based systems for the individual assessment of caries risk, ranging from national or local forms to forms from professional organisations and others. ICCMS™ embraces the CAMBRA<sup>21</sup> (Caries Management by Risk Assessment) philosophy for risk assessment.

Some other examples of caries risk assessment methods are listed below:

- Cariogram<sup>22</sup>
- ADA<sup>23</sup>
- University of Michigan / University of Indiana<sup>24</sup>
- University of North Carolina<sup>18,19</sup>
- Dundee Risk Assessment Model<sup>20</sup>
- Caries Management book' risk form<sup>25</sup>
- The ICCMS™ risk factors listed in this document.

They take into account different risk factors combining medical and dental health, as well as behaviour and clinical data. While the evidence is still limited regarding which system to use, it is considered best clinical practice and best care for patients to assess individual caries risk taking into account local adaptations and age<sup>26,27</sup>. Continuing research in this field is necessary, but until more complete evidence is available, existing methods should be used to support clinical practice according to local needs and preferences. Caries risk assessment systems typically assign three levels of risk, and the ICCMS™ development group (having reviewed the literature) defined low, moderate and high risk according to the criteria detailed in Table 1.

Patient's Risk Status	
<b>Low risk status</b>	Lack of any high caries risk factor (Box 1: red text) and other risk factors are within "safe" ranges (e.g. sugary snacks, oral hygiene practice, fluoride exposure).
<b>Moderate risk status</b>	A stage where the individual is <b>not</b> deemed to <b>be definitely at Low risk or definitely at High risk</b> of developing new caries lesions or of lesion progression.
<b>High risk status</b>	Presence of any of the high risk factors in Box 1 or caregivers with very high caries experience or where the level of several of the lower risk factors in Box 1 suggests a combination likely to lead to a high risk status – the number and levels of these factors will vary according to geographical location and the prevailing socio-economic conditions.

Table 1. Risk status of the patient

ICCMS™ considers that the likelihood of new caries lesions or the progression of existing lesions should result from the analysis of combining the patient's risk status (Elements 1 and 2) with the presence (or not) of active lesions. This combination is known as the Caries Risk and Likelihood Matrix. The outcome of this matrix can be used as part of the synthesis outlined in Element 3.

## **2.2.2 Staging lesions**

The staging of caries lesions involves two steps of the caries diagnosis process<sup>4</sup>:

- Lesion detection (which implies an objective method of determining whether or not caries disease is present)
- Lesion assessment (which aims to characterise or monitor a lesion once it has been detected).

The summation and analysis of these will eventually lead to a third step, the caries diagnosis, which should imply a human professional summation of all available data. This will be considered in Element 3.

With the ICCMS™ system, following the ICDAS examination protocol<sup>28</sup>, prior to the staging of caries lesions plaque should be removed in order to allow for an appropriate visual examination of the tooth surfaces (by means of professional prophylaxis, toothbrushing or cotton pellets) with appropriate light and the use of a ball-end probe (WHO probe).

At this point, the detection of lesions related other conditions (different to caries) should be disregarded, such as developmental defects of the enamel- DDE (hypoplasia and hypomineralisation), non-carious lesions (erosion, abrasion, abfraction), and the current status of the fillings (ditching, fracture) as these will not be considered in this document. Coronal primary caries will be fully described in this guide. For full definition of ICCMS™ categories see Appendix D. Root caries lesions will be described in Appendix E.

The examination should be conducted clinically, and where x-ray facilities are available together with a radiographic examination (in some countries radiographs could be assessed prior to the clinical assessment, depending on local regulations). Following this first step in staging lesion severity, the second step involves the activity assessment of the present lesions (see 2.2.2.4).

### **2.2.2.1 Staging coronal caries lesions clinically**

For the purposes of this guide, the staging of coronal caries will include primary caries and caries associated with restorations/sealants (CARS) as one classification system. For the purpose of caries management, the ICCMS™ categorises the lesions with the ICDAS merged codes (Table 2). For full definitions of ICCMS™ categories see Appendix D.




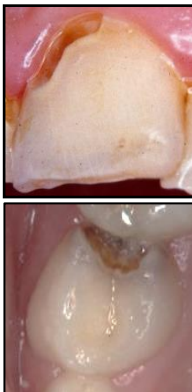
Definition of ICCMS™ Caries Merged categories			
Caries categories	<b>Sound surfaces</b> (ICDAS™ code 0)		<p><b>Sound tooth surfaces</b> show no evidence of visible caries (no or questionable change in enamel translucency) when viewed clean and after prolonged air-drying (5 seconds). 8-9</p> <p><i>(Surfaces with developmental defects such as enamel hypomineralisation (including fluorosis), tooth wear (attrition, abrasion and erosion), and extrinsic or intrinsic stains will be recorded as sound).</i></p>
	<b>Initial stage caries</b> (ICDAS™ codes 1 and 2)		<p><b>First or distinct visual changes in enamel</b> seen as a carious opacity or visible discolouration (white spot lesion and/or brown carious discolouration) not consistent with clinical appearance of sound enamel (ICDAS™ code 1 or 2) and which show no evidence of surface breakdown or underlying dentine shadowing.</p>
	<b>Moderate stage caries</b> (ICDAS™ codes 3 and 4)		<p>A white or brown spot lesion with <b>Localised enamel breakdown</b>, without visible dentine exposure (ICDAS™ code 3), <b>or an Underlying dentine shadow</b> (ICDAS™ code 4), which obviously originated on the surface being evaluated.</p> <p><i>(To confirm enamel breakdown, a WHO/CPI/PSR ball-end probe can be used gently across the tooth area - a limited discontinuity is detected if the ball drops into the enamel micro-cavity/discontinuity).</i></p>
	<b>Extensive stage caries</b> (ICDAS™ codes 5 and 6)		<p>A <b>distinct cavity</b> in opaque or discoloured enamel <b>with visible dentine</b> (ICDAS™ code 5 or 6).</p> <p><i>(A WHO/CPI/PSR probe can confirm the cavity extends into dentine).</i></p>

Table 2. Definition of ICCMS™ Caries categories (merged codes).

### **2.2.2.2 Staging coronal caries lesions radiographically**

Radiographic information adds significantly to clinical findings in terms of finding lesions at different stages of progression<sup>29-32</sup>. Radiographs help estimate the depth of caries demineralization into enamel and dentin. Depth is not always associated with the presence of cavitation, particularly on approximal surfaces.

Clinical investigations in a country with low caries progression rates revealed that, on average, 32% of radiographically visible lesions that extended into the outer third of the dentin manifested cavitation; in contrast, 72% of lesions extending into the inner 2/3 of the dentin were cavitated<sup>33</sup>. Clinically cavitated lesions or lesions with obvious dentine radiolucency (deeper than the outer 1/3) on the occlusal surface are heavily infected in the dentin beneath the enamel dentin junction<sup>34,35</sup>.

For establishing whether a lesion has progressed or not, two radiographs with a time lapse between are required.

If radiographs are available the first step is to grade coronal caries lesions on posterior teeth according to the scores in Table 3.

The ICCMS™ classifies posterior tooth surfaces radiographically<sup>36,37</sup>. Both the reproducibility and accuracy of this scoring system has been reported to be substantial<sup>33</sup> to excellent<sup>37</sup>.

The evidence indicates that the radiographic penetration depth, at which one can reliably predict that the tooth surface is cavitated and dentine is heavily infected, is in the region of radiolucency deeper than the outer third of the dentine<sup>7,34,35,38-40</sup>. This corresponds to scores 4, 5 and 6 in the ICCMS™ radiographic scoring system. With faster caries progression rates, cavity formation can also be expected in cases scored as 3 in the above system.

It must be appreciated that different conventions exist in different countries for classifying the severity of lesions where operative care is required. More evidence is needed to reduce international variation on this issue.

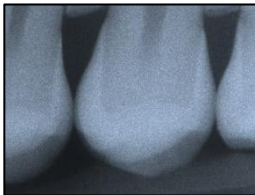
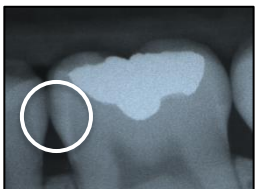
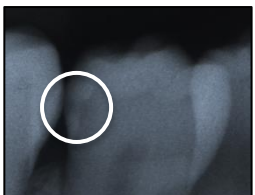
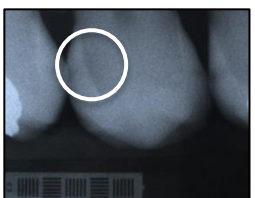


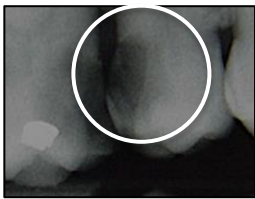
ICDAS Radiographic scoring system				
ICCMS™ Caries Categories	0	No radiolucency		No radiolucency
	RA: Initial stages	RA 1		Radiolucency in the outer ½ of the enamel
		RA 2		Radiolucency in the inner ½ of the enamel ± EDJ (enamel-dentine junction)
		RA 3		Radiolucency limited to the outer 1/3 of dentine
	RB: Moderate stages	RB 4		Radiolucency reaching the middle 1/3 of dentine
	RC: Extensive stages	RC 5		Radiolucency reaching the inner 1/3 of dentin, clinically cavitated
		RC 6		Radiolucency into the pulp, clinically cavitated

Table 3. ICDAS/ICCMS™ radiographic scoring system.

### 2.2.2.3 Combining clinical and radiographic information

Eventually, both the radiographic (when available and for posterior teeth) and the clinical assessment of the lesion severity end up classifying the lesion into the categories of initial, moderate or extensive.










ICCMS™ Categories (C)	Radiographic Categories (R)				
	<i>R<sub>0</sub></i> 	<i>RA<sub>1-2</sub></i> 	<i>RA<sub>3</sub></i> 	<i>RB</i> 	<i>RC</i> 
<b>C<sub>Sound</sub></b> 	Sound <sub>CR</sub>	Initial <sub>CR</sub>	Initial <sub>CR</sub>	Moderate <sub>CR</sub>	Extensive <sub>CR</sub>
<b>C<sub>Initial</sub></b> 	Initial <sub>CR</sub>	Initial <sub>CR</sub>	Initial <sub>CR</sub> or Moderate <sub>CR</sub>	Moderate <sub>CR</sub>	Extensive <sub>CR</sub>
<b>C<sub>Moderate</sub></b> 	Moderate <sub>CR</sub>	Moderate <sub>CR</sub>	Moderate <sub>CR</sub>	Moderate <sub>CR</sub>	Extensive <sub>CR</sub>
<b>C<sub>Extensive</sub></b> 	Extensive <sub>CR</sub>	Extensive <sub>CR</sub>	Extensive <sub>CR</sub>	Extensive <sub>CR</sub>	Extensive <sub>CR</sub>

Table 4. Combination of clinical and radiographic information.

Note- most lesions confined to enamel are not seen on radiographs.

Once again, it is important to recognize the variation between countries in defining lesion severity and radiographic equivalence. More evidence should help reduce this variation.

### 2.2.2.4 Lesion activity assessment

Currently it is clear that caries lesions can be detected and assessed at an early stage as initial lesions<sup>2,3,8</sup>. These, and also lesions at a further stage of severity, can be progressing at the moment of the clinical examination. Therefore, the next step after the severity assessment of the caries lesions is to judge if these, irrespective of stage, are inactive or active.

While there are no current valid biological or clinical tools to assess caries activity and no single variable predicts whether a lesion is active or arrested, clinicians should rely on clinical indicators<sup>1,8,41-44</sup>. Clinical observations to be taken into consideration for assessing enamel lesion activity are based on the modifications of the Nyvad et al.<sup>45,46</sup> and the Ekstrand et al.<sup>47-49</sup> caries lesion activity assessment criteria and include visual appearance, tactile feeling, potential for plaque accumulation and, for lesions located near the gingivae, the gingival health/disease status (Table 5).



It is known that some lesions are at an inactive stage; e.g. initial caries lesions located in the middle third of the buccal surfaces of primary molars that also show signs of white spot lesions and are smooth when gentle tactile assessment is conducted with a probe; initial caries lesions located in the occlusal surface of a bicuspid/molar tooth that also shows signs of brown spot lesions and are smooth to gentle probing.

Current available evidence since the work of Baker-Dirks in the 1950's<sup>50</sup> demonstrates that inactive lesions are less likely to progress than active lesions. This leads to the need to assess the activity status of lesions as part of determining the likelihood of progression. It is also important to link likely future progression with the intensity of care planned, in order for cost effective management of the disease (health economic studies in this area are needed, and some are underway).

Evidence in this field is scarcer than that on severity staging of lesions, however it is of importance to record activity. Therefore the best available evidence so far is presented below.

The scientific definitions and characteristics of active and inactive lesions have been defined in an international glossary (Appendix J) and are described below:

- An **Active Lesion** is considered to have a greater likelihood of transition (progress, arrest or regress) than an inactive lesion (there is an increase in dynamic activity in terms of mineral movement).
- An **Inactive (arrested) Lesion** is considered to have a lesser likelihood of transition than an active lesion (there is less movement of mineral and the lesion stays at the same stage of severity.)

ICCMS™ Code	Characteristics of Lesion	
	Signs of Active Lesions	Signs of Inactive Lesions
<b>ICCMS™ Initial and Moderate Caries Stage</b>	Surface of enamel is whitish/yellowish; opaque with loss of luster, feels rough when the tip of the ball-ended probe is moved gently across the surface. Lesion is in a plaque stagnation area, i.e. in the entrance of pits and fissures, near the gingival margin or, for proximal surfaces, below or above the contact point. The lesion may be covered by thick plaque prior to cleaning.	Surface of enamel is whitish, brownish or black. Enamel may be shiny and feels hard and smooth when the tip of the ball-ended probe is moved gently across the surface. For smooth surfaces, the caries lesion is typically located at some distance from the gingival margin. Lesion may not be covered by thick plaque prior to cleaning.
<b>ICCMS™ Extensive Caries Stage</b>	Dentine feels soft or leathery on gentle probing.	Dentine is shiny and hard on gentle probing.

Table 5. Characteristics of lesion activity across the ICCMS™ coronal caries stages.



## 2.3 Element 3- Decision Making: Synthesis and Diagnosis

This element deals with the third step of the diagnosis process<sup>4</sup> which involves the summation and analysis of information from the first two elements, regarding both the patient and the lesion level. The result will be the synthesis and diagnosis of the likelihood of new/progressing lesions in low, moderate or extensive risk status, and of each lesion in terms of whether or not they are active and if they are of initial, moderate or extensive severity.

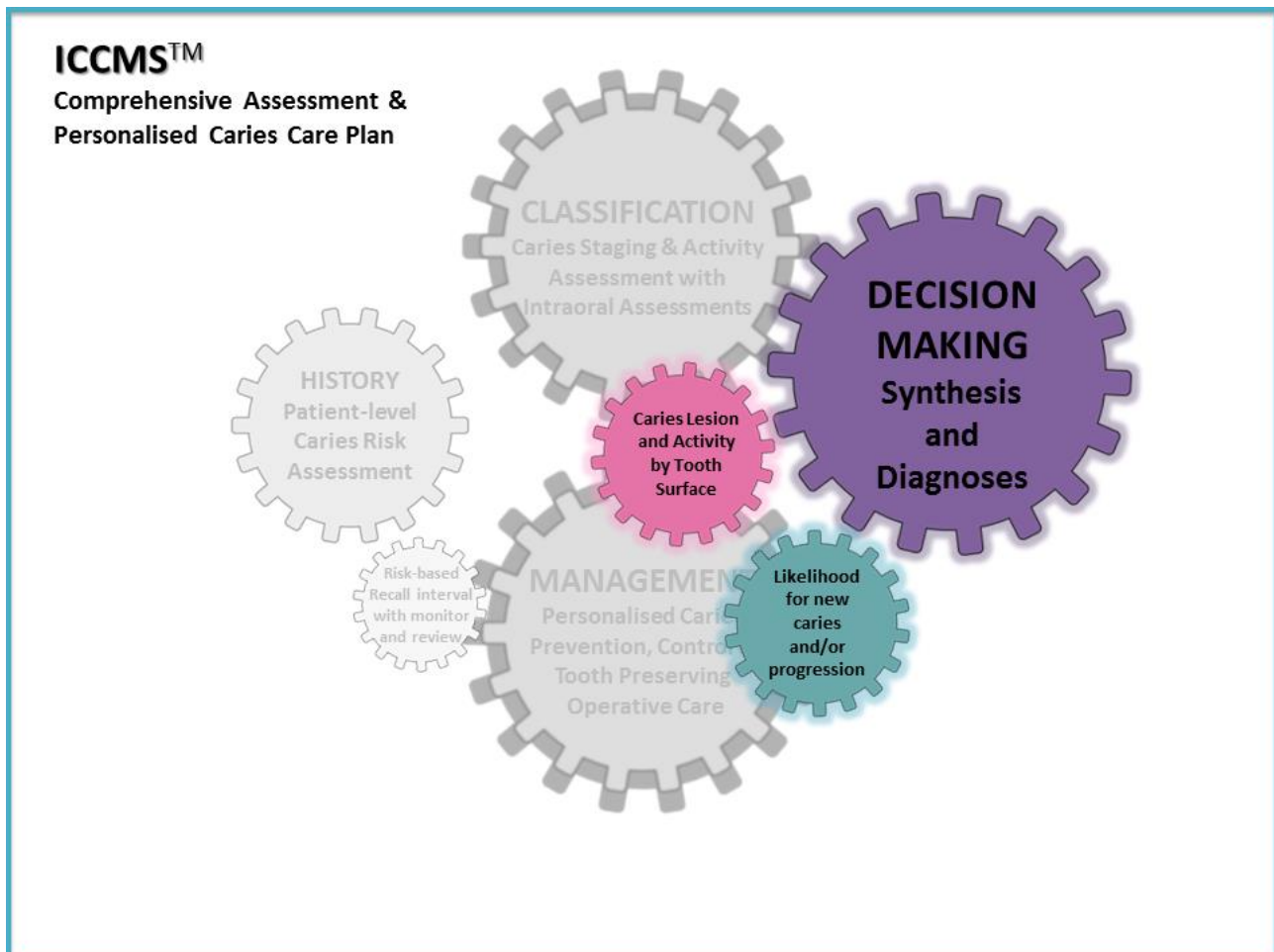


Figure 7. Element 3- Decision Making: Synthesis of information to reach Diagnosis and Risk Status.

### 2.3.1 ICCMS™ caries diagnosis

ICCMS™ caries diagnosis is the result of the analysis of the combination of clinical and radiographic information (the latter when available) plus the lesion activity assessment. Table 6 shows the ICCMS™ terminology for caries diagnosis. Please consider that as lesion activity can change, so can a recorded diagnosis.

ICCMS™ combined Categories	Activity status	
	Active lesions	Inactive lesions
ICCMS™ Sound	<b>No lesion</b>	<b>No lesion</b>
ICCMS™ Initial	<b>Initial Active</b>	<b>Initial Inactive</b>
ICCMS™ Moderate	<b>Moderate Active</b>	<b>Moderate Inactive</b>
ICCMS™ Extensive	<b>Extensive Active</b>	<b>Extensive Inactive</b>

Table 6. ICCMS™ caries diagnosis (staging and activity status per lesion).

## 2.3 2 ICCMS™ caries risk analysis to assess likelihood of new lesions or caries progression

Recommendations based on best evidence<sup>27</sup> state that individual caries risk analysis is an important step in caries management and for achieving the best overall outcomes for patients. The ICCMS™ agrees, even though the evidence on the predictive validity of current assessment tools in many age groups needs to be strengthened further. The consensus view is that risk assessment should be conducted as an integral part of the personalised caries care plan. It is hoped that the collection of data and evaluations from the Global Collaboratory of Caries Management will provide new evidence and insight to develop the evidence base in this area, and on the effectiveness and utility of the ICCMS™ Caries Risk and Likelihood Matrix outlined below. As stated previously (2.2.1) it is acceptable for groups to choose a locally acceptable caries risk assessment method to use with ICCMS™.

ICCMS™ caries risk analysis assesses the likelihood of new lesions or caries progression. It involves the stratification of individuals into low, medium, or high-risk status, irrespective of the tool used (Table 1), and the current caries activity status at the patient level. These two aspects are combined into a matrix, shown as Table 7 below.

		Current Caries Activity Status at the Patient Level		
		No active caries lesions*	Initial stage active caries lesions	Moderate- or extensive-stage active caries lesions
Risk status	Low risk	<b>Low likelihood</b>	<b>Moderate likelihood</b>	<b>Moderate likelihood*</b>
	Moderate risk	<b>Low likelihood</b>	<b>Moderate likelihood</b>	<b>High likelihood</b>
	High risk	<b>Moderate likelihood</b>	<b>High likelihood</b>	<b>High likelihood</b>

\*Sound surfaces and/or inactive lesions

Table 7. ICCMS™ Caries Risk and Likelihood Matrix.

This matrix integrates three categories of current caries activity status at the patient level (none, initial, moderate/extensive) and the risk-status stratification (low, moderate, and high) into a likelihood matrix that stratifies individuals into low, moderate, or high likelihood of developing new caries lesions or the progression of existing lesions.

The current caries status at the patient level synthesises whether or not there are any active lesions (sound and/or inactive caries), whether active lesions at the patient level are initial stage caries, or whether active lesions at the patient level are at a moderate and/or extensive stage of severity.

**\*Note- the top right cell in the matrix, at the intersection of Low patient risk status and the presence of moderate or extensive-stage active lesions in a patient, covers a wide range of possibilities. The number of lesions detected in a patient could potentially range from one active moderate or extensive lesion through to many such lesions. In either case, the likelihood of developing new lesions or the progression of caries is judged to be moderate, even if the patient level risk status is judged to be low. Specific variations may also be needed when dealing with young caries active children and some advocate assessing the cleansibility of lesions as well.**

The way in which this matrix is generated and applied clinically can be understood further by reference to the Case Study outlined in Appendix L.

The core of the matrix represents nine colour coded cells where the likelihood of new lesions or progression have been grouped into colours reflecting a traffic light analogy, green being associated with the lower likelihood of new lesions or progression, yellow a moderate likelihood of new lesions or progression, and red a high likelihood of new lesions or progression. For each of these likelihood categories ICCMS<sup>TM</sup> has defined evidence-based preventive and management strategies to either keep the risk of caries low, or to lower the likelihood of caries lesion development. This novel approach provides a link between caries risk status and management of risk.

The Global Collaboratory for Caries Management is developing a series of implementation tools to help operationalise this matrix. We will be making available software apps and paper-based tools to support the preventive and management aspects of this system. Updates and information will be made available through the ICDAS website ([www.icdas.org](http://www.icdas.org))<sup>2</sup>.

## 2.4 Element 4- Management: Personalised Caries Prevention, Control & Tooth Preserving Operative Care

After defining the individual patient's likelihood risk status and the diagnosis for each lesion, ICCMS™ presents a management element to build a comprehensive patient care plan (Figure 8).

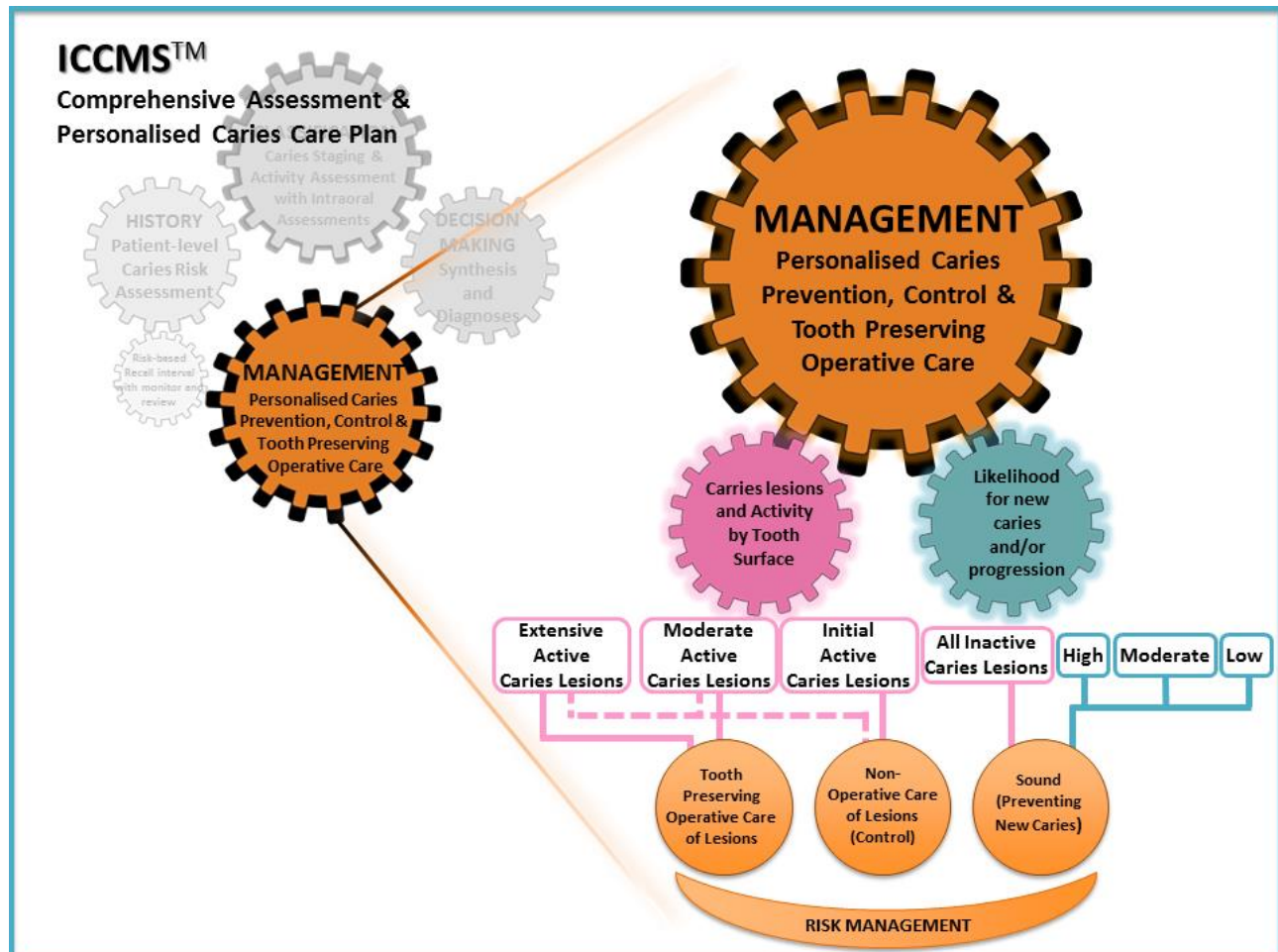


Figure 8. Element 4- Management- Personalised Caries Prevention, Control & Tooth Preserving Operative Care.

The Personalised Comprehensive Caries Care Plan involves and interconnects:

- Managing patient's likelihood for new caries and/or progression (risk status), whether low, moderate or extensive
- Managing individual caries lesions, with caries related treatment when they are active and defining different options according to their severity and taking into account if the dentition is primary or permanent for coronal caries.

The Management Element Includes:

- Preventing New Caries
- Non-Operative Care of lesions (NOC) (Control)
- Tooth Preserving Operative Care of lesions (TPOC),

As an integrated aspect, Risk Management applies to all of the above elements of the care plan.

Recall interval, Monitoring and Review will be considered at the end of this section. The risk-based review links to the start of the next cycle of the ICCMS™.

It is important to emphasise that if a patient presents with acute conditions and pain, these have to be managed as a priority before detailed care planning takes place.

The following subsections will describe the Comprehensive Caries Care Plan thoroughly, showing the best available evidence for recommendations.

#### **2.4.1 Managing a patient's risk factors**

The patient's caries risk factors management plan is tailored at the individual level and involves actions to protect sound tooth surfaces from developing new caries lesions, and all current active and inactive lesions from progressing. In addition, it aims to lower the risk status of the patient when moderate or extensive, and to maintain if low. A preventive plan should address both homecare and clinical interventions/approaches adjusted to the caries risk likelihood status of each patient. Based on the best available evidence, and depending on the caries risk likelihood status, ICCMS™ recommends the activities shown in Figure 9 (See Appendix G). Practitioners may choose from a package of preventive interventions based on caries risk likelihood status.

The intensity of the intervention is cumulative, so for patients with moderate caries risk likelihood all preventive interventions prescribed for patients with low caries risk likelihood should also be considered. Similarly for high caries risk likelihood patients all preventive interventions prescribed for low and moderate caries risk likelihood patients should also be considered in the patient's care plan. The ICCMS™ risk-based recall (re-care) interval for patients is described in subsection 2.5.

Note: Local adaptations may be required, for example according to varying levels of systemic fluoride concentration.

It is the ICCMS™ belief that prevention is an ongoing and dynamic process that involves engaging patients in reviewing their dietary and oral hygiene behaviors as well as clinical preventive care from the first dental visit.

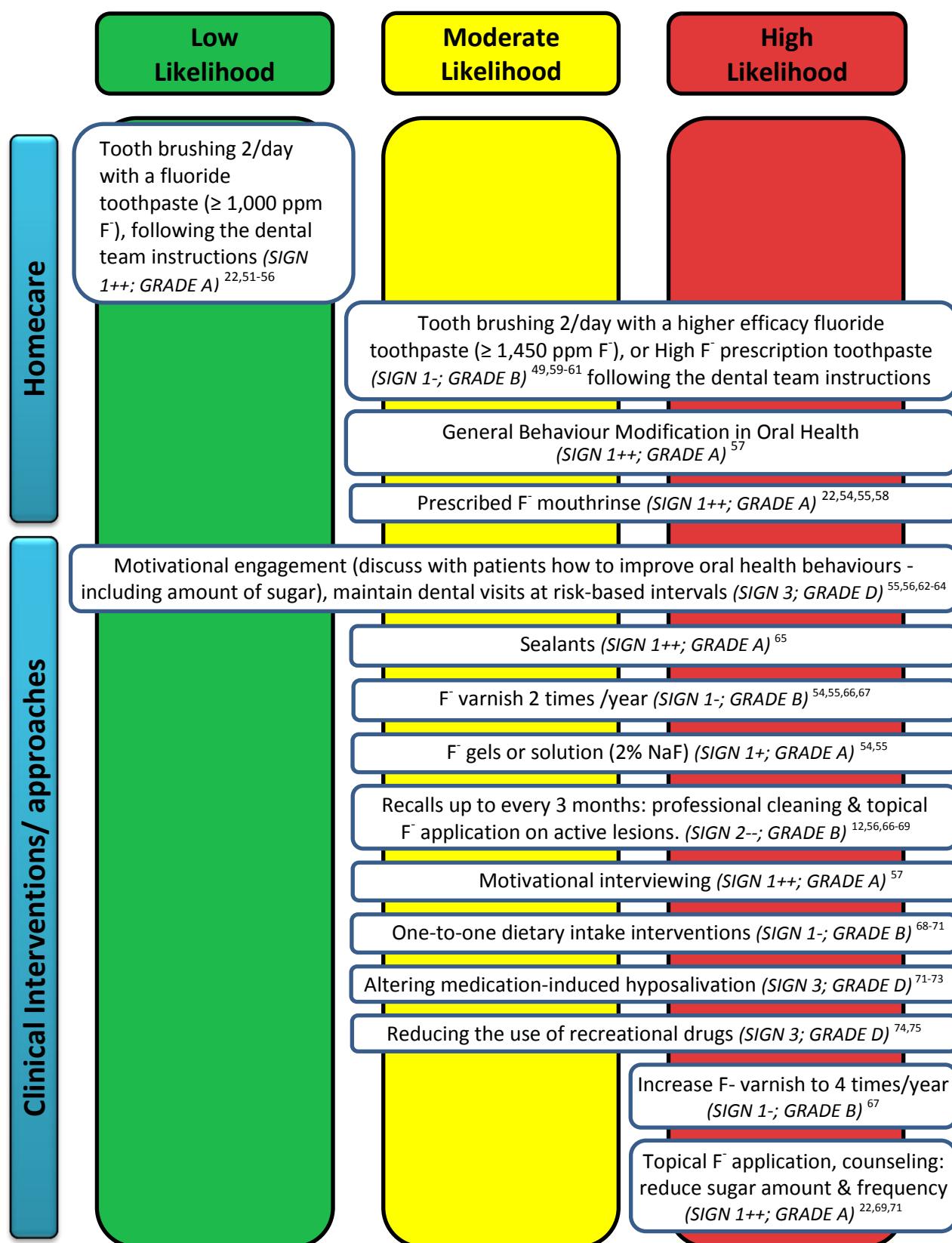


Figure 9. Managing patient's risk factors – core approach.

Note 1: In some countries, chlorhexidine may be considered as a preventive treatment option.

Note 2: This guide is provided as an overview for all age groups, however it is recognized that specific versions targeted for narrower age groups would be useful as later developments.

Note 3: Local regulatory requirements and professional recommendations may modify fluoride concentrations in topical products.

Note 4: Head & neck radiation, dry mouth – hyposalivation, and PUFA signs, indicate the need for special care, including additional measures.

Note 5: The frequency of preventive care should increase for the High Likelihood patients.

## 2.4.2 Managing Individual Lesions

The managing individual caries lesions plan is tailored at the lesion level. The ICCMS™ caries diagnosis (Table 6) is applicable to caries management decisions. The level of intervention depends on the clinical caries classification of the surface or tooth and the radiological extent (when information is available) of the lesion in enamel or dentine. The levels of clinical management recommended for active lesions are defined as follows:

M <sub>Initial</sub> :	Initial caries management stage (Non-Operative care (NOC) - control)
M <sub>Moderate</sub> :	Moderate caries management stage (in general TPOC)
M <sub>Extensive</sub> :	Extensive caries management stage (in general TPOC)

For sound surfaces and inactive lesions, risk-based prevention is recommended.

The only treatment decision suggested by ICCMS™ review of the best available evidence which can be considered as locally modifiable is where the clinical examination classifies the lesion as moderate but radiographically as RA3 (radiolucency reaching the outer one-third of dentin). The clinical options here may be either to manage these lesions non-operatively or by TPOC.

The ICCMS™ tooth preserving operative principles should guide decisions for all restorative care. Surgical restorative interventions are only used as a last resort. The shape and extent of the cavity preparation is dictated by the spread of the caries lesions and presence of infected or affected dentine. Caries removal from the pulpal aspect of the cavity should be carried out to remove soft infected dentin and prevent exposure of a vital pulp (assessment of pulp vitality is an important consideration prior to managing lesions which may be close to the pulp). It is acceptable to leave discoloured carious dentin pulpally. In active extensive lesions where there is a risk of vital pulpal exposure, stepwise or partial excavation of caries should be carried out. Wherever possible, exposure of the dental pulp should be avoided.

With respect to Caries Associated with Restorations or Sealants (CARS) ICCMS™ recommends to either seal or repair defective or carious margins wherever possible. This also applies to defective or lost fissure sealants, which require maintenance/ repair only.

Based on best available evidence (See Appendix H) and depending on the caries category ICCMS™ recommends activities shown in Table 8 for permanent - and Table 9 for primary teeth, discriminating between surface type (See Appendix H for new evidence on individual lesions' interventions). Appendix E shows ICCMS™ recommended procedures for root caries.

Practitioners may choose from a package of non-operative care (NOC) and TPOC interventions. Sound surfaces and inactive (arrested) lesions are taken into consideration for risk management and inactive (arrested) moderate/extensive lesions for TPOC. ICCMS™ recall interval, monitoring and review of lesions is described in subsection 2.5.



For coronal caries in permanent dentition the caries management recommendations are defined as follows:

<div>Surface</div> <div>ICCMS™ Stage</div>	Pits and fissures	Mesial-distal (proximal)	Free smooth
M <sup>Sound</sup>	Risk-based Prevention (Refer to Previous Section)		
M <sup>Initial Active</sup>	NOC: Clinically applied topical fluoride (SIGN 1---) <sup>67,76</sup>		
	NOC: Oral hygiene with fluoridated dentifrice (≥1000 ppm) (SIGN 1---) <sup>51,66</sup>		
	NOC: Mechanical removal of biofilm (SIGN 3) <sup>56,77</sup>		
	NOC: Resin-based sealants (SIGN 1+,2--) <sup>65</sup>	NOC: Resin-based sealants/infiltrants (SIGN 2--) <sup>78</sup>	
	NOC: Glass ionomer sealants (SIGN 1---) <sup>65,79</sup>		
M <sup>Initial Inactive</sup>	No lesion specific treatment		
M <sup>Moderate Active</sup>	NOC: Resin-based sealants* (SIGN 2+) <sup>80-82</sup>		
	TPOC (SIGN 1---) <sup>83,84</sup>	Determine cavitation for appropriate management options (teeth separation recommended) (SIGN 2+) <sup>33,85,86</sup> . If no cavitation: NOC. If cavitation: TPOC (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>	TPOC (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>
M <sup>Moderate Inactive</sup>	No treatment or TPOC if the lesion become a stagnation area (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>	TPOC - Esthetic reasons (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>	
M <sup>Extensive Active</sup>	TPOC (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>		
M <sup>Extensive Inactive</sup>	TPOC if the lesion is a PSA or esthetically unacceptable (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>	TPOC (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>	

NOC = Non-Operative Care TPOC = Tooth-Preserving Operative Care PSA = Plaque stagnation area

\*If preferred restorative care is NOT yet feasible because of patient or tooth factors, an alternative treatment is to apply a glass ionomer-based sealant.

**Table 8. Managing individual lesions in permanent teeth.**



For coronal caries in the primary dentition, caries management recommendations are dependent on the cooperation level of a child and time to exfoliation. The recommended management matrix is as follows:

Surface ICCMS™ Stage	Pits and fissures	Mesial-distal (proximal)	Free smooth
<b>M<sub>Sound</sub></b>	Risk-based Prevention (Refer to Previous Table)		
<b>M<sub>Initial Active</sub></b>	NOC: Clinically applied topical fluoride; fluoride varnish recommended for ≤ 6-yr. old children (SIGN 1---) <sup>67,76</sup>		
	NOC: Resin-based/glass ionomer sealant (SIGN 1+ / 1---) <sup>65,79</sup>	NOC: Resin-based sealants/infiltrants (SIGN 2--) <sup>87</sup>	
	NOC: Oral hygiene with fluoridated dentifrice (≥1000 ppm) when the first tooth erupts (SIGN 1---) <sup>51,66</sup>		
	NOC: Supervision is recommended at least until the age of 8 years (SIGN 1---) <sup>88</sup>		
<b>M<sub>Initial Inactive</sub></b>	No lesion specific treatment		
<b>M<sub>Moderate Active</sub></b>	NOC: Resin-based sealants* (SIGN 2+) <sup>81</sup>		NOC: Resin-based sealants* (SIGN 2+) <sup>81</sup>
	NOC: If sealant not feasible (teeth isolation difficulties) an option is a non-tooth preparation preformed metal/strip crown (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>		NOC: If sealant not feasible (teeth isolation difficulties) an option is a non-tooth preparation preformed metal/strip crown (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>
	TPOC: including placement of preformed metal or strip crowns (SIGN 1---) <sup>80,83,84</sup>	For appropriate management options determine cavitation status: Tooth separation (SIGN 2+) <sup>67,79,80</sup> . If no cavitation: NOC. If cavitation: TPOC (including preformed metal/strip crowns) (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>	TPOC: including placement of preformed metal or strip crowns (SIGN 1---) <sup>80,83,84</sup>
<b>M<sub>Moderate Inactive</sub></b>	TPOC if the lesion is a PSA or the area is esthetically unacceptable (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>		
<b>M<sub>Extensive Active</sub></b>	TPOC (including preformed metal/strip crowns) (SIGN 1---) <sup>80,83,84</sup>		
	If restorative care is not possible, consider the Hall Technique or extraction (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>		
<b>M<sub>Extensive Inactive</sub></b>	TPOC if the lesion is a PSA or the area is esthetically unacceptable (SIGN 1---) <sup>83</sup>		

NOC = Non-Operative Care TPOC = Tooth-Preserving Operative Care PSA = Plaque stagnation area

\*If preferred restorative care is not yet feasible because of patient or tooth factors, an alternative treatment is to apply a glass ionomer-based sealant.

**Table 9. Managing individual lesions in primary teeth.**

ICCMS™ recommends that review and monitoring visits (conventionally referred to as recalls) should be adjusted based upon the age of the patient and their risk status. ICCMS™ defines Recall as the duration of the personalised intervals between visits to review and monitor a patient's caries status. The frequency range for recall could be as high as once every three months for a child (under than 18 years old) with high likelihood of developing caries, to a low of once every two years for an adult with low likelihood of developing caries. Please be aware that the frequency used may also be adjusted for other conditions such as periodontal or mucosal health. The recall interval range should be reconsidered and either modified or re-used, based on the findings of review and monitoring.

ICCMS™ differentiates between recall intervals set for overall risk management, for assessing preventive interventions and the monitoring of initial lesions (to check their progression status) and reviews of behavioral and oral hygiene change plans.

ICCMS™ recommends that at every dental visit (both treatment visits and recall visits) some level of review should occur. It is essential to evaluate the patient's progress (or lack thereof) on the behavior modifications recommended in regards to the risk management plan. Modification of patient behavior goals should be considered and discussed, as necessary. While investigating the status of behavioral changes it is important to also maintain patient autonomy (patient value of oral health and treatment choices). It may be helpful to create a written statement of newly designed behavior modification goals for the patient to take home. It is important to maintain good documentation of the review and to record future behavior goals.

“Monitoring” in this context is the evaluation of the clinical status of the dentition (including ongoing treatment) and ascertaining whether previously identified lesions have progressed, regressed or have become arrested (inactive). Monitoring must be done at recall visits and may also be completed at treatment appointments. All teeth/surfaces are evaluated and compared to previous ICCMS™ caries categories. Radiographs are interpreted to evaluate possible caries progression. Additionally, in areas where sealants or restorations were placed without complete caries removal, bitewing/periapical radiographs should be evaluated to determine both the size and depth of lesion transition (and apical changes if appropriate), or lack thereof. Also the full range of detection assessment methods such as patient symptoms (pain, swelling, etc.) and clinical evaluation (including detection and activity assessment devices, as appropriate) should be completed.

The Recall interval is based on age (eruption pattern and other milestones) and risk (based on lesion level as well as overall patient level). There is little evidence supporting a specific recall interval to prevent dental caries<sup>89</sup>. Additionally a systematic review found that there is weak evidence to support one specific interval (i.e. six months) for all individuals<sup>90</sup>. The recall intervals were agreed upon by a group of participants at “The Global Collaboratory for Caries Management” and are supported by several published recommended recall intervals<sup>68,70,91-94</sup> (Note: level 1++ is the highest level of evidence in these six cited references). At the recall visit both Reviewing and Monitoring take place.

### 3. Outcomes of Caries Management using ICCMS™

Comprehensive patient care plans should, by design, focus on achieving health outcomes for patients. It is also implicit that health promotion outcomes are desired and this is an important aspect at both the patient and community levels. The outcomes should be value-focused and not value-blind. Plans should be designed and evaluated to assess potential outcomes in health maintenance, disease control and patient-centred quality metrics, as well as around the wider impacts of using the ICCMS™ (Figure 10). Locally relevant outcome measures should also be developed and added to these lists, as appropriate. Measures should be sensitive to change over time and tooth surface level information is therefore desirable.

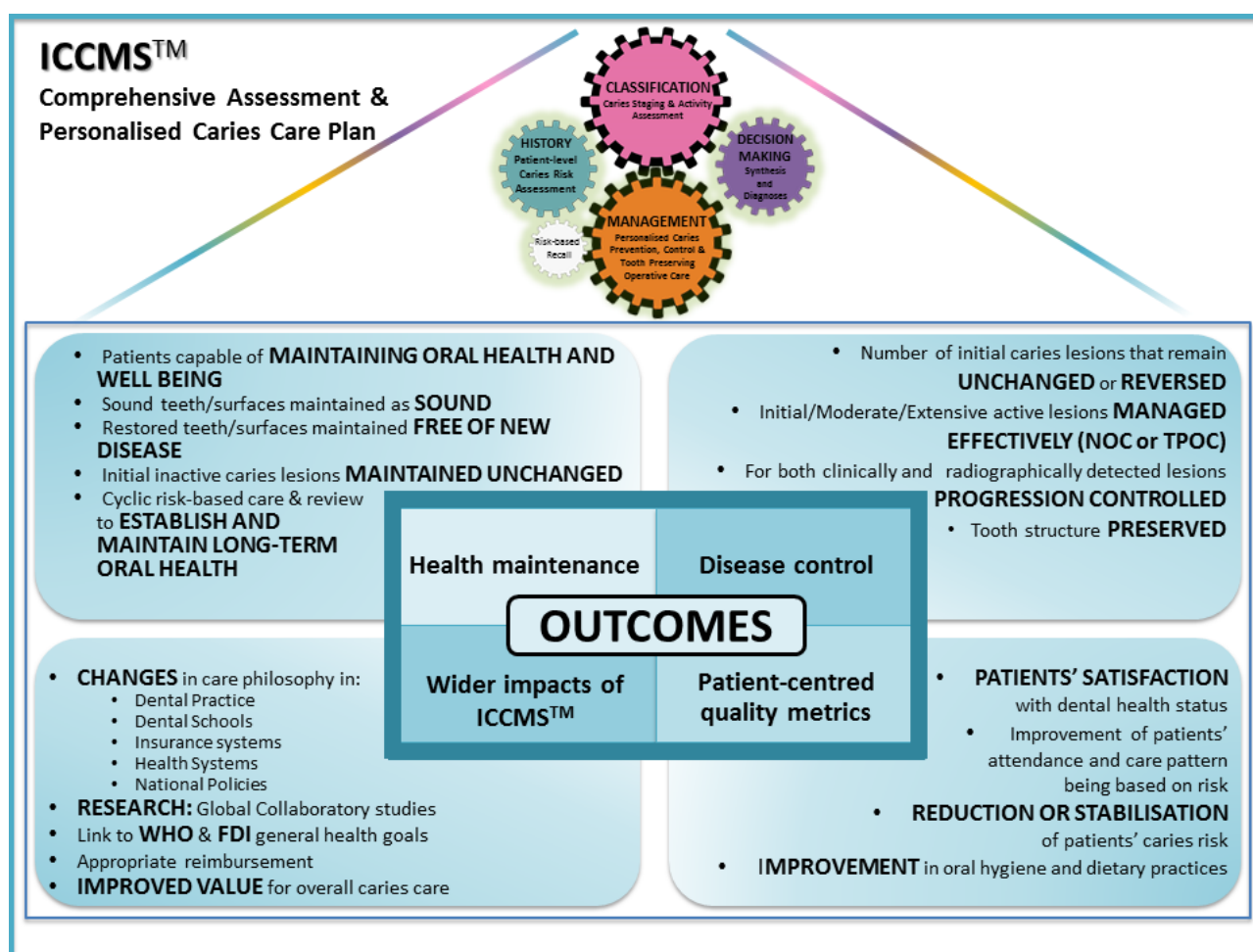


Figure 10. Detailed Outcomes of Caries Management using ICCMS™.

The use of this system should facilitate feedback on the success of care to patients and dental team as well as informing the reassessment and review of care. Outcomes data (and the recorded systematic use of the ICCMS™) may also help dentists in many countries demonstrate “quality” and protect them in terms of legal liability and challenge. Outcome information can also be used in research, evaluation and improvement of the ICCMS™. The analysis of the outcomes will also facilitate feedback to patients and to third-party payers.

## **4. ICCMS™ in Practice**

While there have been no studies that have evaluated the ICCMS™ system so far, a Global Collaboratory for Caries Management (GCCM) has been formed at King's College London ([www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/kpi/projects/healthpolicy/global-caries-management.aspx](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/kpi/projects/healthpolicy/global-caries-management.aspx)) to initiate comparative studies of the proposed systems and evaluate the process and outcomes of its implementation. There have been several short term and less comprehensive studies in the past of novel management methods of dental caries that preserve tooth structure. Mertz-Fairhurst et al.<sup>95,96</sup> have demonstrated that conservative enamel and dentin removal and sealing-in of caries can save tooth structure and have favorable outcomes. In addition to the scientific evidence that supports the different interventions proposed in this guide, additional evidence indicates that remineralisation is not only limited to enamel but can also occur in dentin<sup>97</sup>. An early childhood caries management approach that focuses on home care, prevention, and restorative care can result in positive outcomes.

In practice, implementation of the ICCMS™ will require introducing decision tools and education programs to increase the comfort level among dentists that the proposed system is pragmatic, practical, and worthwhile to implement. ICCMS™ manages caries holistically as a disease process and not as a lesion<sup>98</sup>. It enables a clinician to go step by step through an evidence-based care pathway.

## **5. Related Developments**

This section provides signposts to four aspects which will help to take ICCMS™ forward. The details are beyond the scope of this manual but users should be aware that regular updates will assess any impact on changes in the evidence base and emerging technologies. The research agenda, both for ICCMS™ and for global implementation will be developed incrementally over time. We hope that a series of integrated e-learning and software applications will assist ICCMS™ users in the fields of education and practice, and the Global Collaboratory for Caries Management will promote and monitor the implementation of ICCMS™ worldwide.

### **5.1 New Evidence on Current or Emerging Technology**

A total of 70 studies on current and emerging technologies to manage caries were reviewed by two members of the Global Collaboratory for Caries Management Workshop and a research assistant with training in public health. The primary clinical outcomes considered were caries incidence and increments, percentage of children with progression and/or inactive caries, odds ratio progression of caries, fluorescence loss/mean fluorescence values, and changes in lesion area/volume and lesion depth. Studies that assessed both non-cavitated and cavitated carious lesions were selected for this review. Data were extracted independently by at least two reviewers and confirmed by a third. The quality of the studies was independently reviewed using criteria based on the SIGN (Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network) guidelines<sup>99</sup>. A single well-conducted

systematic review or a large randomised clinical trial could support a recommendation for an intervention under the SIGN system. The evidence table was checked for consistency and corrections were made based on consensus. The recommendation for any intervention was based on synthesis of the quantity, quality and consistency, applicability, generalisability and clinical impact. Strength of evidence and level of recommendation for each emerging technology were rated using the American Dental Association guidelines and the SIGN system, respectively (See Appendix B).

## **5.2 Research Agenda for ICCMS™ and the GCCM**

Advancing the application of ICCMS™ in practice and education will require that several gaps in the knowledge base are addressed. The research agenda should include a focus on:

- 1) Implementation- Science Research around both understanding the barriers to and how to facilitate the adoption and improvement of ICCMS™ in Clinical Practice and Dental Education - locally and globally.
- 2) Developing and evaluating valid and pragmatic methods for accurate assessment of caries risk in clinical practice.
- 3) Evaluating the validity and utility of the ICCMS™ Caries Risk and Likelihood Matrix in clinical practice.
- 4) Developing and evaluating new diagnostic aids to improve the accuracy of caries classification and activity assessment, especially the differentiation between stages of progression where non-surgical and surgical interventions are indicated.
- 5) Research on detection and management of active lesions on root surfaces and adjacent to restorations and sealants.
- 6) Research to evaluate the impact of using the holistic ICCMS™ Comprehensive Assessment and Personal Caries Care Plan on the future development of caries.
- 7) Developing and evaluating novel remineralising technologies that can inhibit the progression of initial caries lesions.
- 8) Research on restorative techniques and materials to preserve tooth structure and protect teeth from future caries development.
- 9) Ascertaining why some individuals with very high disease levels (current disease) do not respond to traditional primary prevention interventions (e.g., fluoride).
- 10) How the ICCMS™ approach needs to be tailored to specifically manage children with VERY high rates of caries in the primary dentition.
- 11) Ascertaining whether ICCMS™ can work as a sensitive measure of changes in disease in high disease level individuals (primary dentition) where the vast majority of their teeth are at the most severe end of the caries continuum.

### **5.3 Integrated eLearning and Data Management Software**

In order to facilitate the implementation of ICCMS™ in clinical practice and educational settings, the system should be supported by well-designed and tested clinical management software in dental schools and in the dental office. One of the challenges in producing such electronic systems is compatibility with other clinical software, since most practices and educational settings will have at least some form of data capture and management program which may be related to payment. Hence, the best approach identified at the 2013 launch of the Global Collaboratory was to design the ICCMS™ as a software package (or App) that can be utilised as either a stand-alone package or alternatively be accessible from within existing software systems via interoperable bridges.

ICCMS™ software cannot assume all of the roles that full-blown dental practice systems fulfill, but should provide a supportive and educational platform for the logical and comprehensive assessment and subsequent management of dental caries. The software will also have to be designed to have the capacity to allow outcome assessment and quality improvements to be recorded and reported in order that improvements in dental health can be supported. Embedded within the ICCMS™ software there could be e-learning elements to support users in understanding the steps involved in data gathering, synthesis and care planning.

Development work is underway - at the end of 2014 ICCMS™ codes have already been made available to a number of US Dental Schools through “Axiom” software. On the dental practice side initial work to pilot these concepts is underway with the help of Dentrux software in the US and Software of Excellence EXACT software in Australia.

### **5.4 Implementation for ICCMS™ – GCCM**

It is important to emphasise that the ICCMS™ is not static and it can and will be modified when new experiential or clinical research findings become available.

The ICCMS™ System will be supported by an increasing range of documents and tools which are currently under development. These include:

1. This ICCMS™ Guide to Practitioners and Educators.
2. The ICCMS™ Quick Reference Guide, which will correspond to a short “how to”.
3. The ICCMS™ Resource Book - which will cover the ICCMS™ and further supporting evidence and practical considerations in more detail.
4. ICDAS/ICCMS™ Updated E-learning tool (to be available by March 2015).
5. ICCMS™ iCaries Care practice support software APP.
6. ICCMS™ iCaries Care patient support software APP.
7. ICCMS™ Caries Care patient support paper-based tools.

Further Implementation tools should be produced and evaluated in due course as part of the Global Collaboratory for Caries Management initiative – supported by Kings College London and the other participating Universities and Associations in collaboration with supporting Companies.

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